

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 MCE-00 /096 W

-----085907 021158Z /21

R 011445Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7730

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0638

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZANU AND ZAPU LOOK TOWARDS A CONVENTIONAL
WARFARE CAPABILITY

1. ACCORDING TO GHANAIAI CHARGE BOTH NKOMO AND
MUGABE HAVE APPROACHED HIS GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN
BUILDING THEIR SEPARATE CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES CAPABILITY.
HE IDENTIFIED ZAPU SECRETARY GENERAL MSIKA AS THE NKOMO
EMISSARY WHO HAD DISCUSSED ZAPU'S MILITARY NEEDS WITH
GHANAIAIS. ACCORDING TO CHARGE, HIS GOVERNMENT COUNSELED
AGAINST TRYING TO ORGANIZE ALONG CONVENTIONAL LINES,
POINTING OUT THAT THE LOGISTIC, DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATIONAL
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PROBELMS TO BE OVERCOME WERE BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF THE
RHODESIANS, IN THE END, GHANA OFFERED PLACES FOR RHODESIANS
IN ITS SERVICE ACADEMY. MUGABE HAD MADE THE SAME PITCH FOR
ZANU AND HD RECEIVED THE SAME REPLY.

2. CHARGE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THAT UNDERLYING
ZANU'S REQUEST WAS A FEAR OF ZAPU'S GROWING MILITARY STRENGTH

AND A PERCEIVED NEED TO COUNTER THIS. GHANAIS ALSO BELIEVE NKOMO'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY IS BASED ON HIS ASSESSMENT THAT HE WILL NEED SUCH FORCES IN A SHOWDOWN WITH ZANU.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF NKOMO'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A CONVENTIONAL WARFARE CAPABILITY, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF MUGABE THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES. CHARGE'S PRESENTATION OF WHAT MSIKA WAS SEEKING FOR ZAPU WAS CLEAR AND PRECISE; HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUGABE APPROACH WAS MUCH LESS SO. HOWEVER, WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE RELIABLE IN THE PAST.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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